is already paid as part of the equated freight to indigenous urea manufacturing units, it is in-built in the rates of concession payable under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

Direct distribution of fertilizers subsidy to farmers

595. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alagh Committee has recommended to start a pilot project for direct distribution of fertilizer subsidy to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;'

(c) whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (b) Working Group headed by Dr. YK. Alagh has *inter alia* recommended that a scheme for disbursal of subsidy directly to farmers in three selected districts where reliable land records are available may be formulated on an experimental basis.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Working Group are under examination of the Government.

Competition in wheat import

†596. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import wheat in view of its shortage and its high price in the country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.